

Gift of
Mrs J. H. Gooch

In Memoriam
Joseph Henry Gooch
1866 — 1935



"Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust." Psalm 40:4.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk,
O Lord, in the light of thy countenance." Psalm 89:15.

To the Members
of
THE LOWER COUNTRY LINE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
this little Memoir is affectionately inscribed.

During our sore bereavement many messages of sympathy and comfort have come to us, which we would like to share with other hearts "acquainted with grief."

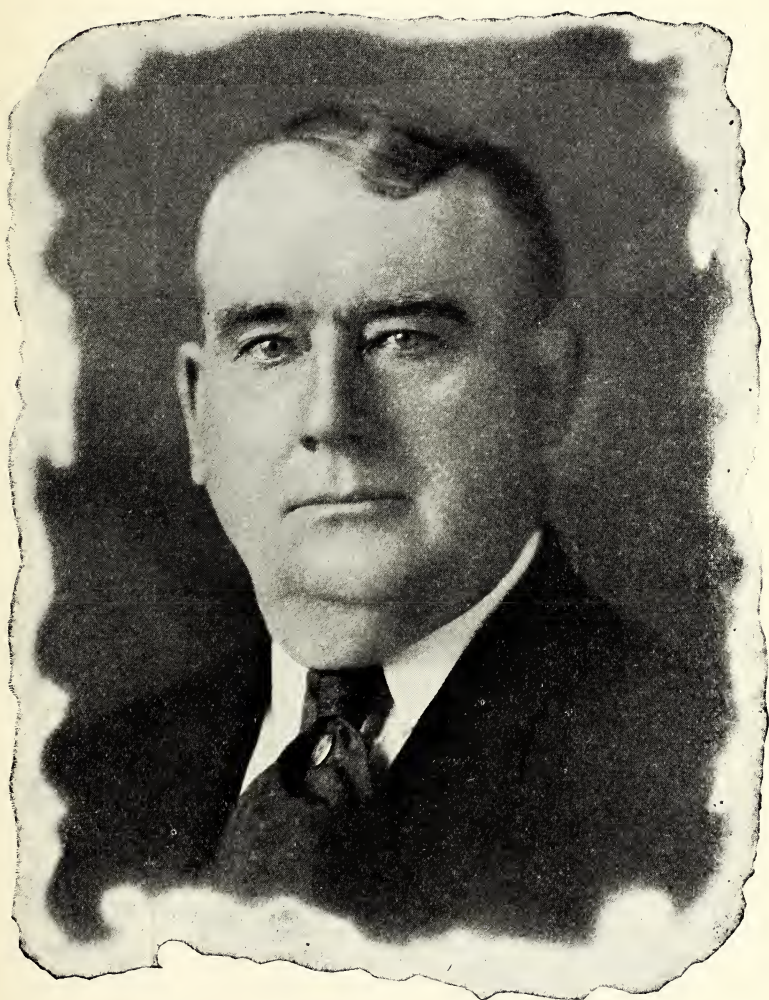
With them are some of the tributes received, to the life of our dear one,—a life made comely by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Added to these are a few extracts from letters and minutes of the Association, and some articles written by Elders who were much beloved.

These articles were found carefully filed with other church papers, and as they express the faith he distinctly approved, and which was the pillar and ground of his hope, it has been thought not inappropriate to append them to this memorial which goes forth among those he loved, and whom he delighted to serve.

LAURA REED GOOCH.

July, 1935.



J. H. Gooch,



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OBITUARIES

JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH

Joseph Henry Gooch, second son of Henry Spraggins and Jane R. Holeman Gooch was born near Stem, in Granville County, on September 14, 1866, and fell asleep in Jesus on the night of April 6, 1935, at his home in Stem, aged 68 years, 6 months, and 23 days. Death resulted from a sudden heart attack.

His only brother, Wayne H. Gooch died in 1915, and an older sister, Mrs. Emma Clayton, passed away in 1925, leaving as the sole survivor of his father's family, one sister, Mrs. Allie Gooch Reid.

On October 4, 1904 he was married to Miss Sudie Hunt, daughter of Mrs. Susan Hunt, who died on November 22, 1908, leaving one small daughter, Janie Gold.

On December 8, 1910 he was married to Miss Laura A. Reed, only daughter of Anslem and Rebecca Watkins Reed, of Winston-Salem, who with the daughter, survives to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father.

In early manhood he was led to love the truth, and on Saturday, June 12, 1897, united with the church at Camp Creek, and was baptized the following day by Elder Albert Blalock. His mother joined at the water and was baptized at the same time. Believing he possessed the qualification of a Deacon, he was ordained to that office in Camp Creek Church on Aug. 9, 1903, by a Presbytery composed of Elders Albert Blalock and J. J. Hall, which office he faithfully and prayerfully filled to the close of his life, being chosen as a Deacon of Memorial Church when it was organized.

He was elected Clerk of the church on Nov. 14, 1903, and filled that office until Dec. 8, 1923, when he was granted a letter of dismission to join in the organization of Memorial Primitive Baptist Church in Stem.

On August 20, 1906, The Country Line Association in session with Mt. Zion Church, Halifax Co., Va., decided on account of the large number of churches composing that body, and the large territory covered by it, to divide into two associations, named The Upper and Lower Country Line. Mr. Gooch was elected Clerk of The Lower Country Line Association at this time, and until his death held that office, retaining through all the changes of time and surrounding disturbances, the love and fellowship of the brethren. When his health began failing, several times he asked to be relieved of the office, but the Association refused to consider his resignation, saying they would appoint help for the work, but desired that he remain Clerk as long as he lived.

He was untiring in his efforts for peace, and in striving for the general welfare of the churches. His greatest joy was in listening to the gospel preached, and in serving his brethren. He loved the truth, and was jealous of the doctrine and order of the Lord's house. He was well established in the principles of predestination, foreknowledge and election of God, saying that was the only doctrine of any comfort to him; patient and forbearing with those who did not see as clearly or deeply on some points of doctrine as others were favored to see, yet there was no compromise

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when the truth was assailed. In relating his experience, he said he was shown more plainly the beauty of the true church, while listening to a bitter denunciation of it from the pulpit of another order, and he felt then, if enabled to do so, he wanted to join at the first opportunity, this "sect everywhere spoken against", for he loved that people and wanted to live with them and share the reproach and abuse heaped upon them. At the next meeting day at Camp Creek, he offered to the church and was received. His life proved his abiding love for this people, and that he "served the Lord with gladness."

Some years ago he was deeply impressed with the desire for a meeting house in Stem, more comfortable and convenient than the hall over a store, which he had years before fitted up and furnished for preaching service. Such an impression meant a striving to bring about its accomplishment, and together with other willing hearts and hands, he wrought earnestly and well until Memorial Church was completed, donating the land upon which it was built and giving untiringly of his time and strength and means. And how he delighted in its services! Only one day is it recalled that he was absent, and that was a grief to him. As long as he was able, it was a joy to him to attend to the house and grounds, keeping them neat, clean and orderly. Like Paul, he felt things should be "done decently and in order", and it was his desire to keep them so. As has been said of him, "he loved his country, his state, his community, his church and his home, and his efforts were unceasingly directed, both by precept and example to the betterment of each and all," but his chief joy was in his church and home.

Since 1887, (excepting about seven years), he had charge of the Post Office. First as assistant at Tally Ho, and later as Postmaster when that office was moved to Stem. He held that position until his death, in all, a period of over forty years.

When the Bank of Stem was organized in 1908, he was elected President and filled that office until December 1927, when on account of his failing health and changing business conditions it was decided that the bank be voluntarily liquidated.

For a number of years he conducted a general merchandise store in the place.

In business he was prompt, faithful and diligent.

The Lord blessed him with a tender and responsive heart to those in need, even when denying himself to minister to their necessities. While greatly favored of the Lord, it was his lot to endure many deep and bitter sorrows, but an unseen strength supported him, and he manifested the spirit expressed by Job when he said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Patient and submissive through all his sickness and suffering, not a fretful or rebellious murmur escaped his lips. Calmly, and with a thoughtfulness and carefulness that was surprising, he made almost in detail, every possible arrangement for the end, and was ready when the summons came.

A short service was held in the home on Monday afternoon, April 8th, by Elder D. V. Spangler, after which the remains were conveyed to Memorial Church where they lay in state until the hour for funeral at 2:30 o'clock. The funeral service was conducted in accordance with his request, by Elder A. B. Denson of Rocky Mount, N. C., Elder E. L. Cobb of Wilson, and Elder D. V. Spangler of Cascade, Va. When making the request to each one, he stated, it was his wish they preach the gospel, with the ability the Lord gives, indulge in no eulogy, but at the close, if they wished,

say, that was the doctrine he loved and trusted in.

We feel his wishes were complied with. The gospel was preached and the songs of Zion sweetly sung.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord," who
"Sleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,
From which none ever wake to weep."

SLEEP ON.

"Sleep on!

We saw thee suffering, and we saw
The patience sweet and strong;
But now pain's last, long hour is past,
And Jesus' blissful rest, at last
Shall dreamless sleep prolong:
"Sleep on!

"Sleep on!

Dear brow and hands and wearied feet
Were needing rest we know;
And we, who loved them all so well,
Who clung unto them, even when
The river's spray was felt, and then
Turned back alone, we still must wait;
For well we trust, with joy unknown,
Past all sufferings of the "here",
Past heart ache's touch and sorrow's tear,
A precious one in God's own time
Has entered home.
"Sleep on!

"Sleep on!

We'll softly tread and whisper low
Within the rooms you've hallowed so,
And though we never can forget,
The face so loved for years and years,
The tender voice, which even yet
Seems whispering, "this is not for tears",
Yet we would not disturb the rest
A Father gives, "who knoweth best".
But "Jesus wept", so we may weep,
Our tears will not disturb the sleep,
"He giveth His beloved";

"Sleep on!

LAURA R. GOOCH

Zion's Landmark and Signs of the Times.

I wish to write a short tribute in memory of Brother J. H. Gooch who was a very dear brother in Christ to me.

I have known him for fifteen years, and during that time I have never known any one who was more spiritually inclined at all times. I loved him because of the wonderful manifestation of the spirit of God in him. In all my acquaintance, I never saw any one more Christ-like than dear Brother Gooch.

I feel thankful that I did try in my weak way to let him know that I loved him, and certainly he let me know in many ways that he loved me, and esteemed me very highly for the work's sake.

He was a devoted lover of the gospel, and I feel his steps were ordered of the Lord. His conversation was mostly on heavenly and divine things.

Brother Gooch's advice and counsel was sought by both white and colored, on any number of things or subjects, which came up among the people of his acquaintance, and no one came to him in vain, for aid in any form.

He was a pillar in his association, having been the competent Clerk of The Lower Country Line Association since it was organized in 1906, and a very useful member of his church, since he joined on the second Saturday in June, 1897, that being the same day I united with the church. The knowledge of this seemed to draw us nearer together if possible, notwithstanding the fact that it was several years afterward before we met, and the churches of our membership were seventy-five miles apart.

Since I have known him, and we have been drawn together, he has visited my church, and am very glad that he was able to be with us just two weeks before the Lord saw fit to call him home. This was the last time Brother Gooch heard any preaching, and he was blest to greatly enjoy it.

While I feel that he has gone to be with his Saviour, he has left a vacancy no one can fill. I have every reason to believe that he felt as Paul said: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Tim. 4:6, 7, 8, verses.

I dearly loved Brother Gooch and he always manifested a great love for me.

A. B. DENSON

I trust in our God for guidance to write in memory of our Brother Joseph H. Gooch, who was a member and faithful Deacon of Memorial Primitive Baptist Church in Stem, N. C., and who passed away on April 6, 1935, after a very useful life to his fellow man, as well as to his church.

Brother Gooch was a man that to know him was to love him. In all my life I have never met one more favored with the grace of our God to mete out fairness to his brethren. Always desiring peace, but not at the cost of principle or point of doctrine. He was so quiet in his speech, and in controlling matters

of importance, and was such a help to The Lower Country Line Association. This Association has lost a faithful Clerk, one who will be missed more than can be expressed, but will be felt.

He was a lover of good, sound preaching of the gospel and he loved the men that God enabled to preach the gospel.

It has been an inspiration in my life, to press on and on, since learning of his love for me, and the preaching given me of the Lord, and I hope I may be favored in his memory, to turn neither to the right or left, but grow deeper in the doctrine that men in their natural state do not love. I have heard him say he did not know where to draw the line, but he was sure all things were in the control of our God.

By Brother Gooch's request I took part in his funeral service. There was a large congregation of people, and the most beautiful funeral arrangement I ever witnessed. It will be remembered by those present for years to come.

May we bow our heads in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well, believing that the dear Lord knows best, and in all His arrangements before the world was, it has, in his life and end, been just as He fixed it; feeling He is too good to err, and too kind to do wrong, and that all He does, or has done, is according to his determinate counsel, and that whatever is, is the best.

E. L. COBB.

Words fail to express our loss in the death of Brother J. H. Gooch of Memorial Church in Stem, N. C.

I have served his church as Pastor for about eighteen months and have known him for about twelve years. The longer I have known him, the better I loved him.

Brother Gooch was established in the doctrine and order of the Primitive Baptist Church, salvation by grace. He was a firm believer in the predestination of all things, believing it to be a part of the doctrine of election, that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord." Not only did he believe this doctrine, but he walked it and talked it, to the glory of God, by an orderly walk and godly conversation. The love of God prompted him several years ago, with the help of a few other faithful brethren, sisters and friends, to erect a nice church house near his home, in the town of Stem, giving liberally of his means toward it.

He was chosen a Deacon of this church when it was organized, and since the day of the Apostles, I feel that none have served their church more faithfully than our brother. This service was a privilege and a pleasure, rather than a duty with him. In serving his brethren, he served his God.

He requested the writer some time before his death to take part in his funeral service, and that we not talk of him, but of the doctrine he loved. The scripture I felt impressed to use on that occasion was II Tim. 4:6 and 7 verses, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

It is our desire, together with many others, we feel, to follow the example he has left us, looking forward in that blessed hope of meeting him, and all the redeemed in that better land where there is no sickness, sorrow, pain or death.

D. V. SPANGLER.

Joseph Henry Gooch, youngest son of Henry Spraggins and Jane Rebecca Holeman Gooch, was born in Granville County, N. C., near the village of Stem, on Sept. 14, 1866, and fell asleep in Jesus on the night of April 6th, 1935, at his home in Stem.

His only brother, Wayne H. Gooch, met a tragic death in Texas on Nov. 14, 1915, and an older widowed sister, Mrs. Emma Clayton, passed away on Oct. 6, 1925, which leaves as the sole survivor of his father's family, one sister, Mrs. Allie Gooch Reid, wife of Mr. D. S. Reid of Winston-Salem, N. C.

On Oct. 4, 1904, he was happily married to Miss Sudie Hunt, youngest daughter of Mrs. Susan Hunt. She died on November 22, 1908, leaving one small daughter, Janie Gold.

On Dec. 8, 1910, he was married to Miss Laura A. Reed of Winston-Salem, only daughter of Anslem and Rebecca Watkins Reed, who with the daughter survives to mourn the loss of a devoted husband, and a tender and affectionate father.

After a short, simple service in the home, on Monday afternoon, April 8th, the remains were conveyed to Memorial Primitive Baptist church, a spot he dearly loved, in the town of Stem, where they lay in state till the hour of service at 2:30 o'clock.

The funeral was conducted by Elder A. B. Denson of Rocky Mount, Elder E. L. Cobb of Wilson and Elder D. V. Spangler of Cascade, Va., the pastor, and in spite of inclement weather was attended by a large concourse of sorrowing friends.

Active pall bearers chosen were Messrs F. D. Long, B. C. Clinard, J. J. Whitley, W. L. Teague, George Clay, Otho Goss, Lester Williford, John Benbow and C. F. Benbow.

Due to an incomplete record of the large number of honorary pall bearers and floral bearers, the names of these are omitted. Among them were many dear ones, whose friendship had been prized for years.

The floral tributes which were profuse, bore in part, a silent testimony to the high esteem in which Joseph H. Gooch was held.

Burial was in the cemetery in Stem by the side of other loved ones.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." These words seem fitting in connection with the life he lived, for his was a life of Service.

Burdened almost from boyhood, with cares and responsibilities, which increased with the passing years, there was always manifest the same untiring fidelity, and willing response to the duties laid upon him.

He loved his country, his state, his community, his church and his home, and his efforts were unceasingly directed both by precept and example to the betterment of each and all.

But it was in his church and home that his beautiful life shone forth most resplendently, for it was there he exemplified so fully the life of a true, humble follower of the Master, and of a faithful and devoted husband and father.

Filling many offices of trust in both church and state, he was faithful in them all.

His strict integrity, his good judgment and sense of fairness and justice, were

recognized by all who could appreciate true worth and nobility of character.

Scorning intrigue, deceit or falsehood in all its forms, he was one such as the Psalmist described, "in whose eyes a vile person is condemned", and one "who swear-eth to his own hurt and changeth not", and whose life was spent "in patient continuance in well doing."

In him the poor and needy always found a ready ear to their necessities, and no cause or suppliant was too humble to enlist his sympathy and his aid, often at a sacrifice to himself. But he "did not his alms before men to be seen of them."

Some years ago he felt impressed with the building of a house of worship in the village of Stem, and to feel such an impression was to set about carrying it out. Donating the land upon which the church was built, with other willing hands he wrought earnestly and well, giving liberally not only of his substance, but of his time and strength, until the building was complete, and stands today as a lasting monument to his deep and abiding love for the cause of his Master.

Truly a good man has fallen:—one who was just and true,—one of earth's noblemen.

"Life's race well run

Life's work well done,

Life's earthly crown well won,

Now comes rest."

ONE WHO LOVED HIM.

—Oxford Public Ledger.

PRESS NOTICES

GOOCH FUNERAL WILL BE CONDUCTED TODAY

Native of Granville Had Made Reputation for Himself During Long Years of Public Life.

Rites For Prominent Business Man of Stem to Be Held In That Community At 2:30

SUCCESSFUL CAREER

Durham, April 7.—(AP)—Funeral service for Joseph Henry Gooch, prominent business man of Stem who died as the result of a heart attack at his home late Saturday night, will be held at the Memorial Primitive Baptist church at Stem, Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Elder A. B. Denson, of Rocky Mount; Elder E. L. Cobb, of Wilson, and Elder D. V. Spangler, of Cascade, Va., will be in charge of the rites. Interment will follow in the cemetery at Stem.

Mr. Gooch had been in declining health for some time but his death was unexpected.

Born in Granville county in 1866, Mr. Gooch had lived in and around Stem all his life and attained prominence in business and civic life. He was president of the Bank of Stem until it was dissolved, and was also owner of a general store.

Appointed postmaster in 1887, Mr. Gooch held the post, with the exception of a few years, until his death.

Surviving are his second wife, Mrs. Laura Reed Gooch, and one daughter, Mrs. Janie Gooch Doughton.

Mr. Gooch was born September 14, 1866, in Tally Ho township, Granville county, near Shoo Fly, the son of Henry Spraggins and Jane Rebecca Holeman Gooch. He entered business as a grocery clerk and proved so proficient that he was taken into the company as partner. After being connected with several business enterprises he became sole owner of a general store at Stem and was also appointed postmaster in 1887. During the 40 years that he held the position it is said that no one ever asked for mail, or even for a stamp, without being waited on, regardless of the hour. He also had an enviable reputation as a merchant.

The bank of Stem was organized in 1908. Mr. Gooch was elected president and retained the position until the bank went into voluntary liquidation in 1927.

In 1904 he was married to Miss Sudie H. Hunt, who died in 1908, leaving one daughter, Janie Gold. In 1910 he was married to Miss Laura A. Reed, of Winston-Salem, who survives.

Mr. Gooch was distinctly a self-made man. He attended neighborhood schools for a short time, not more than 15 months, but the deficiency in formal education was offset by native ability, energy and strength of character. For 16 years he was a justice of the peace. He joined Camp Creek Primitive Baptist church in 1897 and he continued to exercise a lively interest in church affairs during the remainder of his life.

Greensboro Daily News, and Oxford Public Ledger.

J. H. GOOCH PASSES AWAY AT STEM

Joseph H. Gooch, 69, retired merchant and broker of Stem, Granville county and brother of Mrs. D. S. Reid, Sr., of this city, died late Saturday night at his home as the result of a heart attack. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon from the Memorial Primitive Baptist Church at Stem, of which he was a member. A. B. Denson, of Rocky Mount; Elder E. L. Cobb, of Wilson, and Elder D. V. Spangler, of Cascade, Va., had charge of the service and interment was in the cemetery at Stem.

The deceased had been in declining health for several years and his death was not unexpected. For many years he was in the mercantile business at Stem and served as president of the Bank of Stem until it was dissolved. He was appointed postmaster in 1887 and held this post, with the exception of a few years, until his death.

For more than a quarter of a century he had served as clerk of The Lower

Country Line Primitive Baptist Association.

In 1904 he was married to Miss Sudie H. Hunt, who died in 1908. In 1910 he was married to Miss Laura A. Reed, of Winston-Salem, who survives. He is also survived by one daughter, Mrs. George Doughton, of Charlotte.

—*TwinCity Sentinel, Winston-Salem.*

JOSEPH H. GOOCH FUNERAL TODAY

Funeral of Stem Business Man Will Be Held There This Afternoon

Durham, April 7.—(AP)—Funeral services for Joseph H. Gooch, prominent business man of Stem who died at his home late Saturday night, will be held from the Memorial Primitive Baptist church Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Mr. Gooch had been in declining health for some time but his death was unexpected.

Born in Granville county in 1866, Mr. Gooch had lived in and around Stem all his life and attained prominence in business and civic life. He was president of the Bank of Stem until it was dissolved and was also owner of a general store.

Appointed postmaster in 1887, Mr. Gooch held the post, with the exception of a few years, until his death.

Surviving are his second wife, Mrs. Laura Reed Gooch, and one daughter, Janie Gold Gooch.

Charlotte Observer, Raleigh News and Observer, Durham Morning Herald.

Joseph Henry Gooch was not as well-known, perhaps, as other men in Granville county who have spent many years in public service, but the Stem villagers and others with whom he came in contact know best the high type character and untiring public service exemplified in his useful life. Death has removed one of the finest citizens the county had.

—*Editorial Comment in Oxford Public Ledger.*

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH H. GOOCH

Dear Editor:

Please allow me to express through the pages of the Public Ledger a final tribute to one of Granville's first citizens who today was buried.

I was born and raised in Stem, and all the time that I was going through school, Mr. Gooch was living there, a good citizen, a good neighbor, a good friend to all those who were in need and want.

He was a Christian gentleman, a good father, and a man well known and loved throughout the county and that section of the state.

A church builder, a bank organizer, and a man who always stood for the right, this was Joseph H. Gooch.

May God bless his family, his friends and his community where his presence will be missed.

ROBERT M. HARDEE,

Pastor of M. E. Church at Cullowhee,

Cullowhee, N. C., April 8, 1935.

Fourteen

IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH

**SHORT SERVICE IN THE HOME MONDAY P. M., APRIL 8TH,
1935, 1:00 O'CLOCK**

Hymn—"Jesus Lover of My Soul."

Prayer and short talk by the Pastor, Elder D. V. Spangler.

Reading from II Tim. 4:6 to 9 Verse.

Benediction.

Remains were then borne to the church where they lay in state till hour of funeral service.

**ORDER OF FUNERAL SERVICE MONDAY P. M., APRIL 8TH,
1935, 2:30 O'CLOCK**

Memorial Primitive Baptist Church, Stem, N. C.

Hymn—"How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord".

Prayer—Elder D. V. Spangler.

Hymn—"Asleep in Jesus".

Elder A. B. Denson read and spoke from 103rd Psalm.

Hymn—"Jerusalem My Happy Home".

Elder E. L. Cobb read 90th Psalm, speaking from 1st and 2nd verses.

Elder D. V. Spangler read and spoke from II Tim. 6 and 7 verses.

Hymn—"Abide With Me" sung as floral offerings were taken from the church.

Hymn No. 596.

"Mid scenes of confusion, and creature complaints,

How sweet to my soul is communion with saints, etc."

with chorus of Home Sweet Home.

Sung as remains were borne from the church.

Hymns sung as remains were being committed to the grave:

"Nearer My God to Thee".

"Rock of Ages".

"Jesus Lover of My Soul" and others.

The last hymn being:

"We shall sleep but not forever,

There will be a glorious dawn,

We shall meet to part, no never,

On the resurrection morn."

Resolutions presented and adopted by a rising vote at The Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Association in session at Wheelers Church, Person Co., N. C., July 20, 1935.

IN MEMORIAM

Whereas, our sovereign covenant-keeping God through the work of His Holy Spirit has ever, throughout the history of the church on earth, furnished the church, which is the mystical body of Christ, with members and gifts suited to the edification, instruction and comfort of His beloved people, and has placed these members and gifts in the body as pleases Himself; and,

Whereas, we believe we have had such a useful member and gift in the person and character of our departed brother J. H. Gooch who for twenty-nine years has served this association, The Lower Country Line, in the capacity of Clerk, faithfully and devotedly; and

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to terminate our brother's service among us, and to remove him from this earthly scene to be at rest and at peace in the presence of His Lord, where we are confident his heavenly gain far surpasses our loss and our sorrow at his going, painful indeed as this loss is to us: his brethren, his family and his friends; therefore

Be it Resolved, that we bow in submission to the Divine will, having the assurance that the Lord has taken His own unto Himself, with an inexpressible thankfulness in our hearts to the Giver of gifts that He raised up our dear brother Gooch by His grace and gave him to these churches and to this association to labor among us humbly, God-fearingly and in christian love, causing him ever to stand for sound doctrine and order much to our comfort and to our further establishing in the truth; and further

Be it Resolved that this resolution be spread upon our Minutes, and that a copy be sent to the church of his membership, to his beloved and sorely bereaved wife, our sister Gooch, and to the Signs of the Times, and Zion's Landmark.

(Signed) F. D. LONG, *Moderator*

J. J. WHITLEY, *Clerk*

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

Resolutions of respect for our departed Brother, J. H. Gooch as offered and adopted in conference at *Memorial Primitive Baptist Church*, in Stem, N. C. on Saturday, May 11, 1935.

Whereas, It has been the will of our Heavenly Father to take into His glorious presence by death, the soul of our beloved Brother and Deacon, Joseph H. Gooch; and

Whereas, in the passing of our Brother in Christ, Memorial Church has lost as faithful a member as ever lived; one who believed in, walked and talked, the doctrine of salvation by grace; and

Whereas, our brother has by faithful and devoted service for so many years, manifested his deep love for the cause of Christ, and through whose efforts this church house was erected; therefore be it now,

Resolved, by a vote unanimously agreed and approved, that the name of *Memorial Primitive Baptist Church* be changed, and known in the future as "*Joseph H.*

Gooch Memorial Primitive Baptist Church", in honor and loving memory of our dear brother, who died as he has lived, remembering his church and those he loved; and further be it

Resolved, that we return thanks unto God for the fellowship of our dear brother, and desire to say in his death, "Thy will be done"; feeling he has fought a good fight, and has kept the faith; that he has finished his course, and has gone to be with Him, whom he loved and served; and finally be it

Resolved, that we extend to the beloved family, our sympathy; and that a copy of these proceedings be spread upon our Minutes, a copy sent to the bereaved, and a copy be sent to "ZION'S LANDMARK" and SIGNS OF THE TIMES" for publication.

Unanimously approved and adopted, and ordered annexed to the conference minutes.

(Signed)

D. V. SPANGLER, *Moderator*.

LAURA R. GOOCH, *Clerk*.

MESSAGES AND TRIBUTES FROM BRETHREN AND FRIENDS

With a sad heart, I want to say a few words in memory of Brother J. H. Gooch, whom I loved so much.

It is useless for me to eulogize the principles and traits of character this good man possessed, because his life was an open book, and I feel I can say of a truth, that all who knew him, far and near, regardless of creed or color, loved him.

I remember first seeing him at Mount Zion Association, August, 20, 1906. At that time he was elected Clerk of The Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Association, which office he filled so faithfully until the Lord saw fit to call him home. At that association, although I was a mere boy, while he was performing his duties as Clerk, I saw something about him that made me love him, and the longer he lived the better I loved him.

In the passing of Bro. Gooch there is no one outside his immediate family who will miss him as much as I, for I feel my loss will be a double one. I will, not only miss him as a brother and friend, but also as a father.

For the last five years I have been trying to serve as Moderator of our Association, and any question that would arise as to what was for the best interest of our Association, I had some one to go to; we would talk things over together.

His judgment was always good and sound. He had the interest of our Association at heart, and loved peace as much as any man I ever saw. He was well established, and stood firm in the doctrine of salvation by grace.

It is sad to give him up. We shall miss him, oh! so much.

Yet we think of him as mingling with the saints who have gone on before, and with his Master, whom he loved and served in this life.

Should not this make Heaven sweeter to his dear family, relatives and friends, and inspire them to try to follow in the footsteps of one who lived such an exemplary

life, for he was a man of unquestionable character, honest and reliable. He possessed a true knowledge of morality, truth and right. He was a devout Christian living his faith every day.

His kind exhortation will be greatly missed, but since it was God's will to take him, we must be submissive, ever looking unto Him for all things, and may each of us strive to follow his example, and if it is God's will, meet him in the Great Beyond, where parting will be no more.

By one who loved him,

F. D. LONG, *Moderator of The Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Asso.*

I can't find words to express my feelings in the passing of dear Brother Gooch. He served as Clerk of The Lower Country Line Association for twenty-nine years, and as we all know, was faithful to the end.

He was a leader of distinction, a devout christian, a strong believer in salvation by grace, and a lover of the truth. With strong convictions, but liberal with his brethren, and will be missed by all—not only by the Association, his church and community, but in all walks of life.

I hope we may keep in memory the careful, prudence, watchfulness, love and self sacrifice, which guided him in matters pertaining to the church, and in his business. We should remember his counsel that our lips may utter no words to offend or wound, and above all things live together in peace, one with another. I am sure that would be his admonition if he were here to speak.

Bro. Gooch's life was an open book before all men, and as a humble follower of the Lord, was a great inspiration to me. I feel his loss so much. But what a great comfort it is to know that when one dies in the Lord they cease from their labors, and their works do follow them.

J. J. WHITLEY, *Asst. Clerk Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Asso.*

"When our blessed Lord left His disciples to go away from them to the cross, that he might prepare for them those mansions of eternal rest into which he promised he would receive them unto Himself, He promised he would not leave them comfortless, but would send them the Comforter, who should abide with them even unto the end of the world. This Comforter is your Stand-by. He will not leave you nor forsake you. He fully knows your every need, and He alone can bring into your heart true consolation. Bro. Gooch will be greatly missed by his brethren and by the churches, especially your little band at Memorial. Yet what a blessing to know that he is at rest with the Beloved of his soul. Surely it was "far better" for him to depart and be at rest.

Only a little while, before you yourself, and the rest of us will be called hence. Only a few more days, or years at the most.

I esteemed Bro. Gooch highly for the truth's sake. He has always seemed to be so dependable in every relation of life. He was sound in the doctrine of God our Savior, he was faithful in his church relations and he was a lover of order and uprightness in the church. For all these qualities which we saw in him, we thank the Lord. For it is the Lord who works good works in His children. From Him

is our fruit found. The Holy Spirit produces in true believers those fruits which are well-pleasing to the Father.

May you willingly resign your loved one to the Father's care, knowing your dear husband is free from worry and care, from all sickness and trouble and pain. Oh, how blessed it must be to be with the Lord never to be separated from Him more! Our Father does all things well. What He sends us from day to day is unerringly right for us. He chooses for us the things which are His best for us.

May you indeed realize the blessed truth of His sovereign care over you.

Yours in christian fellowship,

(Signed) H. H. LEFFERTS, *Editor "Signs of the Times"*

Brother J. H. Gooch was a man greatly esteemed and loved by me for the Truth's sake. He was well established in the doctrine of God our Savior and delighted above all things in hearing the Gospel preached in its purity. This was evidenced by the fact that he requested that no eulogy be made of him at his funeral, but rather that the Gospel be preached with such ability as God might be pleased to give. For many years I have felt that there was no better way of honoring the dead than to preach the blessed gospel of our Lord to the living, especially to believers in the loss of their loved ones. With many other things I had this in common with Brother Gooch. His passing means a personal loss to me, and I can, therefore, deeply sympathize and mourn with his lonely companion and dear ones, the Church of his membership, and the Association which he served as Clerk with, exceptional ability for so many years, in their loss, which is his eternal gain.

For you all and his brethren it would have been more needful for him to have remained, but he has departed to be with Christ, which is far better for him. Under such circumstances, you will sorrow for yourselves, but rejoice for him. The loss of his influence will be greatly felt among the large circle of brethren and friends, but we must all bow before Him who works all things after the counsel of His own will.

One who shares your loss with you, and who believes that our God does all things well.

R. LESTER DODSON, *Associate Editor "Signs of the Times"*

"The loss of your dear husband was a shock to me as I was out of town at the time. His life was outstanding in his community, church, and for all those near and dear to him and an example for all to follow.

You have the assurance that he is in the land of the blessed, free from all sorrows and worries of this life.

May God's mercy abide with you and keep you as it always has in the past. He alone can comfort.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. GOLD, *Publisher "Zion's Landmark"*

QUOTATIONS AND TRIBUTES FROM LETTERS OF FRIENDS

Dear Sister Gooch:-

For some time I have resolved to pen you a few words, in remembrance of dear brother Gooch, whom we all felt, to know was to love, in and out of the Church. My acquaintance with him was of short duration, in the flesh, but I feel, at that, I have known him for years. Characters like himself, are few indeed and none can replace them, as each of us has to live the life consecrated unto himself, of the Lord, and none can even attempt to imitate such as we all are born to. The only way I desire to eulogize him, is, as an example, or sample to follow after, if it be possible with us who are left. He was a noble character both in and out of Church, but made so by the heavenly grace and mercy of our God, born unto it, into it, and I hope, not only for himself, but for an example of others around him. My very regret is, that I did not get to The Lower Country Line Association, his neighborhood and church, before he left us. His obituary by Elders Denson, Cobb and Spangler in, the SIGNS in July, was good and touching, as was the "resolutions" passed by his church and association. No doubt they all felt his worth, thru his loss to you all, when they changed the name of the church building he founded, to his own personal name, but I doubt if he would have agreed to it in life, for he felt within himself, "no good" thing within him, in his flesh."

We negligently overlooked his demise, during the period of our "Delaware Association," held at Rock Springs, Lancaster County, Penna., May 26th, intending to draft resolutions upon his passing from us, but we all who knew him nevertheless did not or have not forgotten him, in person or in memory. We, of Welsh Tract Church who knew him, send our love to you in this sad hour of bereavement, knowing words cannot heal, or even comfort one at such a time, and particularly, in such a loss. As the glory of one star surpasses another, (without flattery, or vanity) I feel I can say, or compare him, in the church, to such surpassing brightness, for he was really, and truly, an extraordinary 'star', in the Church of God, on earth, in more ways than one. He would not have me say so, but I feel it, in my heart.

Your brother in hope, and sorrow,

(Signed) J. B. MILLER.

"The words have kept going through and through my mind, "Jesus hath abolished Death,—abolished Death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." I know though that so often we cannot realize this; but have only the aching void that nothing in this world can ever fill."

MILDRED D. GORDY.

"God who made the world, and all that is in it, has so knit it together that we poor, weak worms of the dust, know nothing of the greatness of His dealings, only through and by the things we suffer."

SALLIE F. AYCOCK.

"Time will soon pass for us who are left, and with the sweet hope that if we are suffering, the afflictions which are but for a moment, work out a far more exceeding weight of glory; while we look not on the things that are seen, for the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal."

AMY S. HEWITT.

"I have been thinking how dear Joe will be missed in his community, home, church and the churches of his association. He surely was "well beloved", and a friend to everybody;—the truest of the true. For myself, I sorrow only because I shall see his face no more. I believe and am sure that our loss is his eternal gain."

"Only He who wept at the grave of Lazarus can comfort you."

E. MCCONNELL.

"On Sunday night before the funeral, I woke with a song impressed on my mind, although I do not remember ever having seen it, and did not know then where it was found, but it seemed it was given me in my sleep, as follows:

*"When we appear in yonder cloud,
Among the ransomed throng,
Then we will sing more sweet, more loud
And Christ shall be our song."*

B. C. CLINARD.

"He was faithful and loyal to the highest and best, and held steadfastly to what he believed right. "Surely the Heavenly Father will comfort and cherish you in this time of loneliness and grief, for He is the final source of all real comfort."

NONNIE ASHBURN.

"Words are too inadequate to tell of such a life. All who knew him know he followed his Master as nearly as any mortal could. At the bedside of the sick, in the home of the distressed, in the loneliness of the bereaved, and in the valley of doubt, the hand and spirit of this dear brother and great leader was felt.

Bro. Gooch was a sincere, devout, humble and faithful follower of Jesus of Nazareth.

Those of us who knew him personally have lost a warm and loyal friend. "J. H. Gooch Memorial Church," and "The Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Association," have suffered an irreparable loss.

. . . He was ready and waiting for his Master's words, 'well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord'. . .

IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH *Twenty--One*

Memorial Church has lost its strongest pillar. The benediction of his beloved presence we shall ever miss.

In the passing of his spirit into the great Beyond, we realize a true and precious brother is gone and there are tears, because spirits like his are already too few, but there is joy in the fact that he has passed into a greater and grander life beyond the veil through which mortals cannot see. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

VIRGIE NEWTON.

"I wish to express to you as best I can, my deep sympathy not only for your loss, but for the loss of every one who ever came in contact with him. He was truly one of the finest Christian gentlemen that I have ever known. He was a worthy model for any one who would ever entertain hopes for a success in any field of endeavor."

T. B. DANIEL.

"It is wonderful to live such a life that only good may be spoken of one." "How dearly he loved his church."

"In thinking of Bro. Gooch, these words came into my mind, "Behold the perfect man!" and have continued with me. I know full well that he claimed no perfection in this carnal nature, but I feel he was made perfect by the blood of Christ. I shall always cherish his friendship and fellowship as one of my dearest memories."

MARY P. RICHARDSON.

"His spirit and influence will always be felt in that church and community."

BESSIE G. CLARK.

"Words fail me to express my deep appreciation of the friendship which existed between us during the many years I knew him.

From our first meeting, in his home, his friendship had a most pleasing effect on my life, and I feel proud of the opportunity of having been associated with this honest christian gentleman."

CARROLL DICKERSON.

"He was the most scrupulously honest man I ever knew. He was honest because he was honest. I think I know, for I was employed by him, in his store, for three years when I was a young man just starting out in life.

Any measure of success which has come to me I feel has been due more to his training, and the principles he instilled than to any other one."

J. S. KING.

"For more than thirty years it was my privilege to know Mr. J. H. Gooch and feel that through these years he was my friend. He was kind, courteous, generous, and absolutely honest in all his dealing with his fellowman. A man of a

Twenty-Two IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH

strength of character seldom seen; such was Joe Gooch. I feel that in his passing his church, his neighbors, his county, and his state have suffered an irreparable loss."

J. M. BAIRD.

"Mr. J. H. Gooch was my friend; my warm personal friend. I have never been privileged to have known a finer spirit and a more sympathetic man in all my acquaintance.

I knew him for more than twenty-nine years. I knew him in a social way, in a business way, and I knew him as a deep spiritual man. I found him to be true to every cause, faithful to every trust imposed upon him, and always willing to lend a helping hand to any one, and to any good cause.

Honest, true, faithful, and patient at all times and under all circumstances. I have sustained a great loss by his going and I am yet pained to realize that he has left us. I shall ever hold in my heart pleasant memories of the past and count it a blessing that it was my privilege to have known him.

I am fully confident that he is now at rest with the Lord, where there is no pain, but joy forever and ever."

W. H. UPCHURCH.

"Mr. Gooch was an unselfish, untiring friend who was always ready to assist those in need. He was a peacemaker. He has brought peace and sunshine into broken up and wrecked homes. He has arbitrated many disputes and thereby avoided law suits. He never grew tired of assisting those in need. His judgment was sound and could usually be relied upon. If he made an error it was of the head and not of the heart."

F. N.

"You have my heartfelt sympathy in this hours of trouble, and I wish there was something I could do or say to bring comfort to your bleeding hearts.

I have never known a man that I thought was a better man than my friend, Jos. H. Gooch. I have many times said if there ever was a good man, he was the one.

Even at his going, we all have so much to be thankful for, that is, he died in the Lord."

CHAS. G. ROYSTER.

"I have appreciated his friendship and confidence, and will always think of him as an unusually good, kind and just man, and I know I will be better myself for having known him."

S. F. PFOHL.

"If it were not for our christian faith in the future life, sorrow would be unbearable, but I know you have that abiding faith that you can see in this separation from your dear one, only God's plan of calling His children home, to be reunited in His own good time in the Beyond."

PAMELA GREEN.

IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH *Twenty-Three*

"Dying to earth, is just beginning life eternal, and eternal happiness."

V. NEWTON.

"It was my privilege to know Mr. Joseph H. Gooch for thirty-five years.

"On April 1st, 1908, I began carrying mail on a rural route from Stem Post Office, of which he was Postmaster.

"I recall very well his words of advice given me when I began my first day's work. They were, 'be courteous, kind and obliging to each patron, and render the best service possible.' I must say, Mr. Gooch lived and practiced what he preached.

"He was glad to see any person stand firm for their conviction in any phase of life, politically, or religiously.

"I never knew him to take the advantage of a person in any way, but always gave the other the benefit of the doubt.

"This noble and patriotic man will be missed in our community.

"During the many years I worked with Mr. Gooch, to my knowledge, there were many, many needy people who came to him for help, and I do not recall a single instance when he turned a deaf ear to their humble need.

"I do not know a man in Granville County who did more for poor people than Mr. Gooch did.

"I feel that I knew him, and can say he was one of the best men I ever knew.

"A faithful worker with task well done,

A worthwhile life and the Heavenly home won."

LOGAN W. HALL, *Stem*, N. C.

"The loss of your dear husband was not only yours, and your family's, but it was a loss to all who knew him. But your loss is his eternal gain."

MRS. S. JONES.

"How helpless you feel to even attempt to gather together the tangled threads, and go on living.

May He who "spake as never man spake," by the word of His power command the waves 'Be still,' and in His tender mercy, by His spirit apply a soothing balm to your wounded heart, enabling you to say, "Thy will be done."

EVA HALL.

"He was truly a good man,—good to all."

W. P. REED.

"He who has known sorrow and disappointment in this life, shall know no more of these things, but throughout eternity shall sing the praise of Him who loved, and gave His life for us."

C. BROWN.

"He was such a good, man, therefore beloved by all, especially the little flock he so much loved. He was blessed with a calm and abiding confidence in an over-ruling Providence, and his faith in God's guidance was the prop on which he humbly

Twenty-Four IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH

and habitually leaned. Surely He must have strengthened him during his hours of anxiety and trial. What a comforting thought this must be to you!"

MARY P. FARMER.

"In times of sorrow it seems to me there is no possession so rich in value as the faith that enables one to see God keeping watch over His own."

ANNIE J. WILSON.

LETTERS AND EXTRACTS FROM ASSOCIATION MINUTES

TO THE BRETHREN AND SISTERS COMPRISING THE CHURCHES OF THE
LOWER COUNTRY LINE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, AND TO
ALL WHO MAY READ THIS:

Stem, N. C., July 22, 1931.

In August, 1906, you saw fit to choose me as your clerk. During this quarter of a century you have re-elected me without a dissenting voice. I feel that I have done my best to fill this position without fear or favor. I have served with four Moderators, three of them having passed away during their term of office; all of them being unanimously elected each year without any opposition.

I further wish to state during all this time there has never been, (as I can recall), a dissenting voice raised against a single motion or resolution made by any of our members. Therefore we are a united body, and I trust that we may ever remain so. As there are divisions and discord coming in other Associations, I hope you will not think it unbecoming in me to ask that all of us ever strive to remain in peace and union.

Just at this time there seems to be in some sections, a division or contention over predestination; I am glad that we have never let such mar our fellowship and trust we never will. Some of our brethren have been led much deeper in, it than others, but all of us unanimously agree that God is not the author of sin, therefore there is but little difference in us on that point; the seeming difference is in the manner of expressing ourselves.

I am, as you know, a predestinarian, and know not where to draw the line. To say that only good things work together for good, and not all things as declared by the Apostle Paul in Rom. 8:28, is more than I care to say; to say that God did not have a purpose in the selling of Joseph to the Midianites is more than Joseph himself said, for he told his brethren that they meant it for evil but God meant it for good. When Ahasuerus put away his wife, Vashti the queen, at the suggestion of his wise men, when his heart was merry with wine, (though wickedness on their part), and Esther became queen, was it not according to God's purpose and plan? Or was it by mere chance? Will the reader read the whole book of Esther? I know that finite men can not comprehend God's work. The poet has said: "Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan God's work in vain." May the seeming difference with us not mar our fellowship, and may each of us present our

views in love and not cause confusion. The Master has commanded us when speaking the truth, to speak it in *love*. I know of lovely brethren who do not see predestination as I do, but I can truthfully say that I love them none the less, when their lives are in accordance with their profession. Just here I will state that while I am an unlimited predestinarian (if I am allowed to use the word unlimited), one of my most favorite preachers is classed as a limited predestinarian, but I love him none the less, and have requested that if he be living, that he attend my funeral, when I leave this world, which I feel, at times, will not be long.

For either the limited or unlimited predestinarians to put up resolutions barring good brethren from their Churches, in my opinion is of the flesh. Our Association has never passed such resolutions and I trust never will.

I believe that I would voice the sentiment of our Association, should I say to these extremists, on either side, when coming among us, if you can't express your views (when necessary), without wounding the feelings of good brethren, we would prefer that you stay away. To make a hobby of any special thing will starve the children of God. Our old brethren whose dust I love, did not declare non-fellowship on such, but remained in unity. Well do I remember my first visit to the Black Creek Association at Healthy Plains, in 1900, thirty one years ago. Elder J. C. Hall, of Virginia, a strong predestinarian, was there at the special invitation of Elder P. D. Gold, the Moderator, and preached with much ability twice at the Association, and once at the home where he was stopping, and not a voice was raised against his preaching that I heard of.

Often have I heard Elder Gold refer to Elder Hall's preaching at that time, who said that he looked at the face of his wife while listening at the preaching and it shone like that of an angel.

There are many now living who well remember Elder Hall's preaching at that place.

It was my pleasure and privilege to attend the same Association last Fall, thirty years later, but Elder Hall was not there, neither was Elder Gold, the former Moderator.

The above is written without the knowledge of our Association, and I alone am responsible.

Brethren, live in peace and union, as did our old brethren, who never thought of a division over such matters.

Submitted in love I trust,

Yours in Hope,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. H. Gooch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Association Clerk.

Letter from Minutes of The Lower Country Line Primitive Baptist Association held at Camp Creek, 1934.


* * * For over twenty-five years I have tried to fill the office of Clerk of this Association, and have served with the ability given me, under four different Moderators. Our associated service, without exception, has been harmonious and always in loving fellowship. I can truthfully say, for the present Moderator, and his three predecessors, as well as the other committees associated with us, that in all our services and deliberations the peace and harmony of the Churches and Associations, consistent with sound doctrine, has been above every other consideration.

Our Association and those with whom we correspond, are all, so far as I know, in peace, and we desire to be thankful for this inestimable blessing, and to strive always to do all in our power to preserve "the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace."

We would like always for our words to be fitly spoken, "like apples of gold in pictures of silver," giving no offense, but that all might rebound to the glory of God, and the upbuilding of his cause.

I am now an old man and feel that my days are nearly spent, and my pen will soon be turned over to another. May the one you select as my successor be more worthy, capable and competent than the writer, and may He who suffers not a sparrow to fall without Him, enable you to "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints," and that you "remove not the ancient landmarks, which our fathers have set," is my prayer.

If I never meet you again in another associated capacity,—I desire to say, Brethren, farewell.



Association Clerk.

From Minutes of The Lower Primitive Baptist Country Line Association held at Mt. Lebanon, 1932.

The following agreement was presented by the Clerk for the consideration of the Association:

"It is with much sorrow, that we learn through the Minutes of the***Association, recently held, that the***Association, with whom the Country Line Association has corresponded for over one hundred and twenty years, has divided, primarily over Predestination, a deep and mysterious subject which none of us fully understand. Since the organization of our first Association in America, our brethren have not fully agreed on this matter, owing, we believe, to the way they have expressed it, for we believe if they fully understood each other there would be but little difference. All of us agree that God is not the author of sin, nor in any way does He make man sin, but looks upon sin with much displeasure; yet by the acts of wicked men his glorious purposes are often accomplished, which is in accordance with his will and purpose.

IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH *Twenty-Seven*

Just how it is done we know not. God is a Sovereign, and there is no tribunal before which he can be arraigned, for "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Daniel 4:35.

Please read Genesis fiftieth Chapter, and Acts 2nd. and 4th. Chapters. Therefore be it unanimously agreed, that we refuse to follow the***Association in her recent acts, or give her the least encouragement in the same. To do so, would bar from our presence at this session, some of the most gifted and beloved preachers we have, and would cast a reflection upon the doctrine that many of our able and much loved Ministers, now past away, have proclaimed since our first recollection.

As unprofitable discussion of this subject has caused confusion and division in the aforesaid Association, as well as among other lovely brethren, we would, for the sake of peace and harmony, request all of our preachers, those in the bounds of our Association, as well as those visiting us, that when speaking on this deep and mysterious subject, (which none of us fully understand), to present it as they see it, but use only Biblical phrases, (expressions) as far as possible, and speak in love, so that even the weakest of the flock may not be offended.

When we speak the truth in love, it is to edification and not to confusion. Election and Predestination are cardinal points in our doctrine, and we have no desire to erase them from our Articles of Faith. We have never felt, nor do we now feel, that the apparent difference in the views of our brethren on this matter, is sufficient cause for a division, or a test of fellowship.

May both sections of the, * * * and all other Associations, including our own, be kept as little children, forget their differences and live in peace, is our prayer."

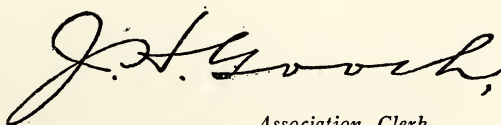
The above was read on Saturday, and again on Monday, and at both readings unanimously approved, and ordered annexed to our Minutes.

The above was presented to The Lower Country Line Association by Mr. Gooch, adopted and unanimously approved, and ordered annexed to the Minutes of the Association, in session with Flat River Church, Person County, N. C., July, 1933.

(Extract from a letter written by him in May, 1933, in speaking of his Church and its services).

"This is the greatest wordly pleasure I have, and feel at times that I can witness with the Apostle Paul when he says, "If in this world only we have hope, I am of all men most miserable."

"Therefore I feel that this world is not my home, and that I will soon be numbered with the dead, but if not deceived, I have an humble hope, though at times very small, that He whom I trust quickened my natural body, will one day resurrect same, I trust in a glorified form, where I hope to meet many of those who are near and dear to me."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. H. Gooch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Association Clerk.

Twenty-Eight IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH HENRY GOOCH

EPITAPH REQUESTED BY HIM

"Believer in salvation by grace, having no confidence in the flesh".

A FAVORITE HYMN.

ABIDE WITH ME

*"Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!"*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou, who changest not, abide with me!*

*I need thy presence every passing hour,
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Thro' cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee!
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!"*

EXTRACTS FROM PUBLISHED LETTERS OF BELOVED ELDERS

"I want to insist that our brethren everywhere shall be careful how they join in any non-fellowship resolutions, for we know not how and when the Lord will visit his Zion and open the eyes of those who hate his way and his truth.

Undoubtedly those of us who have been taught the truth of God's doctrine of Predestination, are going to teach it, but we should be careful how we handle God's sacred truth. We should not handle it defiantly. Handle it in the love and the fear of God whose truth it is. Don't try to down those of our brethren who cannot see it as we do. Did not the Lord teach it to us? * * *

I feel that the good Lord gave me just what I have in that, as well as any other points of the doctrine of his word.

Therefore I do feel that it is right for me to be patient with my brethren on this, as well as other points of the doctrine of God our Savior. And while this is true, I feel that my brethren should not try to declare against me for teaching just what I feel that God has taught to me.

Either way would not be charitable to each other. To get up a war over these things is not good for the house of our God. We are brethren, and we should not fall out by the way.

(Quoted from Zion's Landmark, March 15, 1926, pages 138 and 139, written by L. H. Hardy.)

"Where does Predestination start or stop? I cannot tell.

While predestination directly concerns and applies to the church, it so controls the actions of men as to assure the righteous accomplishment of all God's will, yet so condemning sin and the sinner as to utterly preclude any man in justifying any of his wickedness, or charging it to God; still God determined beforehand that wicked men with wicked hands should crucify his own holy son—a deed so far as they were concerned the most wicked, still it was foreordained.

Shall we not humbly close our mouths and be still and know that the Lord, He is God, and does his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and should we not rather hold our peace than to darken counsel with words without knowledge and avoid plunging in depths and heights of mystery where angels keep silent."

(Quoted from article in Zion's Landmark of Oct. 1, 1926, page 331 (which was republished from Landmark of July 15, 1900) written by Elder P. D. Gold.)

PREDESTINATION

"When I was received into the fellowship of the church, I did not believe the doctrine of predestination in an unlimited sense, but for some years I have been given a different understanding from what I then thought to be the doctrine as set forth by such men as Elders Beebe, Durand, Purington, Chick, White and others.

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"I am not able to say when nor how, this change came about, except I should be allowed in a modest way to claim that it was by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I would not be understood as intimating that my brethren who do not see this as I think I do, have not the revelation of Christ in them and are not called ministers of God, but that they have not received it according to this particular attribute—for if I preach the gospel now, I did when I did not believe the doctrine of unlimited predestination.

I am glad to be able to say that while I had rather that all could see it as I do, and believe it, yet I have not the slightest non-fellowship for one who feels that he does not believe it.

When one seems to be moved by a war-like spirit against it, I don't like that spirit or disposition, nor do I favor a continual and persistent disposition in one who believes it, to discredit those who do not.

Sound doctrine must be and is consistent with christian experience, and the children of God can but be comforted in the doctrine when they see this consistency and this can only be seen in the light of such experience."

(Quoted from article written by Elder P. G. Lester appearing in *Zion's Landmark* of February 1, 1907, pages 134 and 135.

Dear Brother Gold,

I have not traveled very extensively among the old Baptists, but have been among them 25 years, and 15 years of that time I have been actively engaged in trying to preach among them, and have read from one to four of their periodicals almost continuously every since my sojourn among them, and while I have experienced much joy and comfort in the blessed assemblies, have seen and felt, and heard many things that make the heart sick, and have brought' desolation, destruction, death and ruin to the churches and individual members, and I do hope I am prompted by the spirit of Christ in humility and meekness, to point out some of those hurtful things that grow out of jealousy, envy, prejudice and tradition, which all begin in the pulpit, terminate in the confusion and distraction of the flock, with general coldness, and alienation, heart-aches, and trouble and sorrow. There is one subject that I wish to mention in this connection, (and I do it with fear and trembling), that seems to be a "bone of contention", among Primitive Baptists at this time, and the only reason that I mention it is because that I have heard it intimated on both sides that it will sooner or later bring a division.

Would to God I could speak in this letter so as to quell the fears of the weak and to "stop the mouths of gainsayers," and to impress upon the minds of all the spirit of forbearance, and not to make that a test of fellowship which has been the Gibraltar of the church since the days of the apostles. I refer to Predestination. Why should the people of God contend about this doctrine to the hurt of the daughters of Zion? I do believe that the difference is more imaginary than real. Brethren imbued with a spirit of controversy, and perhaps with more "zeal" than knowledge, and then they are so prejudiced that they cannot discuss the subject without misrepresenting the views of those who differ with them. I shall never forget what Elder I. J. Taylor, once said in his preaching at Nazareth Church

Tuscalousa County, Alabama. He said "Prejudice has neither eyes, nor ears." The expression made a lasting impression on my mind, I have never forgotten it, and I have found it too true. Those who are called "absolute Predestinarians" of the one side, will call the other side Arminians, and those who are called limited predestinarians, will brand the other side with "fatalism," and say they make God the author of sin, and all the wickedness that is done in the world. Brethren do not all sound Baptists believe in the perfect sovereignty of God over all things, all beings and all worlds, and in His fixed purposes respecting all things, being and events? Is this too hard? Is it fatalism? Is it too soft? Is it Arminianism? Is this not bible doctrine? Does not this cover all the ground that the strongest advocate of the Predestination of all things desires to cover? And does it cover too much ground for any sound Old School or Primitive Baptist? If you answer in the affirmative why then "strive about words to no profit?" We all know that "sin is the transgression of the law", and that sin entered into the world through the offence of the one man, Adam. But behind it all was the grand and glorious purpose of God in the salvation and redemption of his people. We know that Saul was a wicked king over Israel, and he envied and persecuted David, the man "after God's own heart", and David was a type of Christ, and his sufferings were a type of the sufferings of Christ, and behind it all was the immutable purpose of God to bring David to the throne, and to establish his typical kingdom in Israel. We know that God commanded Abraham to slay his son, Isaac, but behind it all was his purpose to prevent him, and receive Isaac in a figure, and just as He provided the ram in the place of Isaac, so He has provided Jesus as the "one offering for sin," and who has "by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified." Through envy and jealousy Joseph's brethren sold him as a slave in Egypt, thinking to get rid of him forever, and to bring his inspired dreams to naught; but God was with him, and his grand and glorious purposes were behind it all to provide temporal salvation for his chosen people Israel, in the time of famine, which had not yet come, when Joseph's brethren did their dirty work. The betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus was a wicked work. "Him ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain," but behind it all was the eternal purpose, and "determinate counsel and fore knowledge of God", to redeem and save with an everlasting salvation, all the chosen people of God, who were "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world that they should be holy and without blame before him in love." Paul was arraigned before Felix and Agrippa and tried for his life. He appealed unto Caesar. He went bound as a prisoner to Rome, yet behind it all was the purpose and declaration of the Lord. "Fear not Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem so must thou also testify of me in Rome." But why multiply scriptural instances? Are not these things so? Then why dispute about them? Let us stop and consider, and remember that we be brethren. Let us search the scriptures, "and if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given him."

I fear we are too much inclined to be "self-willing" in these things, whoever heard a Baptist say that God is the author of sin, or that God forces men to sin? Whoever heard a Baptist preach a "general atonement," or a conditional system of

salvation? No man can receive anything except it be given him from heaven. No man can believe or preach anything that God has not revealed to him. "Let us follow after the things that make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." I am satisfied from observation that the misconstruction some of God's dear children place upon God's purposes and predestination leads them to erroneous practices, or rather no practice at all; while others no doubt like Abraham and Sarah get uneasy for fear the Lord will not bring his work to pass in time, and go to work to help the Lord bring in the promised seed. The result either way is always a failure on the part of the creature."

(Part of a letter written by Elder H. J. Redd to Elder P. D. Gold, and printed in *Zion's Landmark* of February 15, 1896.)



